

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 H-02

AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00

CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01

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R 301337Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6297

INFO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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PASS USDA/FAS FOR HUME

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, CZ

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAKIAN HARVEST SITUATION

REF: (A) STATE 166994 (B) PRAGUE 1821

1. SUMMARY. HEAVY RAINS DURING EARLY JULY CAUSED
WIDESpread LODGING TO CROPS PARTICULARLY EASTERN PART
OF COUNTRY (SLOVAKIA). IN ADDITION 6,000 HECTARES
CROPLAND CAME UNDER WATER DUE LABK RUN OFF. FLOOD
DAMAGE NOT EXCESSIVE. DESPITE UNFAVORABLE WEATHER
EXPECTATIONS ARE COUNTRY COULD STILL ACHIEVE 10.3
MILLION TONS GRAIN PRODUCTION TARGETEDFOR 1975. SUCH
PRODUCTION WOULD LEAVE CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S IMPORT NEEDS
GRAIN ABOUT SAME LEVEL AS LAST YEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. NATIONAL SITUATION. FIFTY YEAR OF FIVE YEAR PLAN
(1975) INSTRUCTED AGRICULTURAL SECTOR ACHIEVED
PRODUCTION 10.3 MIL TONS GRAIN INCLUDING CORN.
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ADVERSE WEATHER DURING FALL 1974 HAVE BEEN OVERCOME

AND MUCH HOPE WAS PLACED IN FAVORABLE WEATHER DURING SPRING AND GROWING SEASON 1975. HEAVY RAINS EARLY JULY HOWEVER QUESTIONED WHETHER PRODUCTION GOAL CAN BE MET FROM 2,768,000 HECTARES. SO FAR ADVERSE WEATHER AFFECTED LARGELY SLOVAK REGION OF COUNTRY, WHERE AFTER COMPLETION SMALL GRAIN HARVEST APPEARS EFFECT WILL BE MINIMAL. ACHIEVEMENT PRODUCTION TARGET STILL POSSIBLE IF WEATHER COOPERATES DURING REMAINING HARVEST IN WESTERN PART, NOW IN FULL SWING. CURRENT WARM AND SUNNY WEATHER FAVORABLE FACTOR. ALSO THERE APPEARS ADEQUATE STORAGE AND DRYING FACILITY TO TREAT MORE THAN USUAL MOISTURE IN KERNEL IN CERTAIN AREAS.

3. REGIONAL SITUATION.

A. CZECH LAND. REGION PRODUCES ABOUT TWO-THIRD NATION'S GRAIN CROP WITH 6.7 MIL TONS TARGETED FOR 1975. AREA WAS NOT AS BADLY HIT IN JULY BY RAIN AS SLOVAKIA. ALTHOUGH AGATT EARLY JULY OBSERVED 20 TO 30 PERCENT OF CROP FLATTENED RECENT DRY AND WARM WEATHER JUST BEFORE HARVEST LARGELY OFFSET THESE ADVERSE DEVELOPMENTS. ACCORDING TO MEDIA REPORTS EARLY SAMPLES SUGGEST GOOD YIELD AND CZECH OFFICIALS CONFIDENT TARGET CAN BE MET AND EVEN SURPASSED.

B. SLOVAK REGION. REGION PRODUCES ONE-THIRD NATION'S GRAIN CROP INCLUDING 90 PERCENT ITS CORN. TARGET FOR THIS YEAR AROUND 3.6 MIL TONS GRAIN OF WHICH 600,000 CORN TO BE HARVESTED IN FALL. SLOVAK REGION WAS HIT HARD DURING EARLY JULY RAINS. IN MID-JULY AGATT OBSERVED WIDESPREAD LODGING IN MAJOR GRAIN PRODUCING AREAS UP TO 50 PERCENT CROP LAY ON GROUND. WATER TABLES COVERING CROPS WERE ALSO OBSERVED IN SEVERAL AREAS (NITRA, NOVE ZAMKY AND DUNAJSKA STREDA DISTRICTS). NEWS MEDIA LATER ESTIMATED 6,000 HECTARES UNDER WATER IN THESE DISTRICTS. THIS DUE LACK OF RUN OFF RATHER THAN FLOOD FROM RIVERS. DURING SECOND FIELD SURVEY JULY 29 AGATT FOUND PRACTICALLY NO TRACE EARLIER ADVERSE WEATHER. HARVESTING NEARLY COMPLETED ABOUT IN TIME. BECAUSE LACK OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS HARVEST PROSPECTS
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WITH SLOVAK MINAG OFFICIALS AT THIS TIME (REF B) AGATT DISCUSSED EXTENSIVELY WITH LOCAL PEOPLE HARVEST SITUATION IN REGION. FOLLOWING MAJOR POINTS EMERGED FROM TALKS:

(1) SLOVAKIA SHOULD NOT HAVE DIFFICULTY ATTAINING GRAIN PRODUCTION TARGETS DESPITE ADVERSE WEATHER. REGION WELL PREPARED FOR DIFFICULT HARVEST. LODGING

LOSSES WERE KEPT TO MINIMUM DUE TO HELP FROM CZECHS
WHICH PROVIDED ADDITIONAL COMBINE HARVESTERS. THIS
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